MUSEUM ON MAIN STREET
A Museum Of County Life

IMPRESSIONS

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER • FEBRUARY 2004

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INFORMATION
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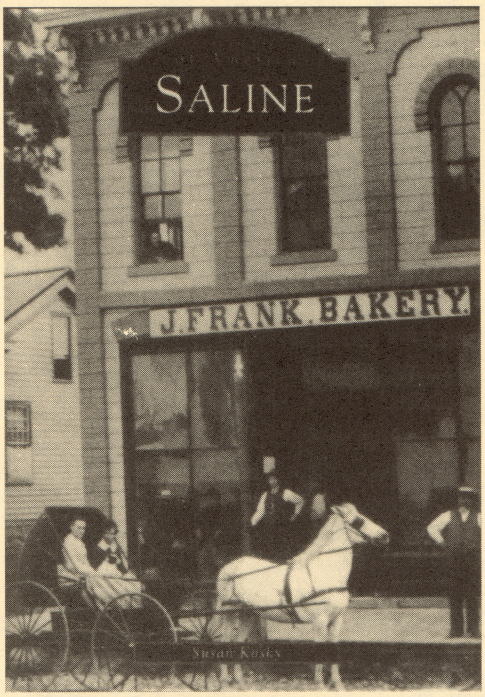
Annual dues are individual, $15; couple/family $25; student or senior (60+) $10; senior couple $19; business/association $50; patron $100.

Your Museum



Sue Kosky's new book on Saline is available at our Museum Shop.

Our exhibit on "***Dollhouses and Toys of Yesteryear***" opened to the public on **Saturday, November 8, 2003** and was up until **January 11, 2004**. We had several hundred visitors in that time and they bought lots of things in our gift shop. Some of the toys loaned for the exhibit have now been donated. Thank you Greg De Freytas for the chemistry set and Bill and Marlene Prince for the Wrigley's Delivery Truck and Dopey character doll. And a big thank you to all the members who helped docent during this event.

In December, the Board unanimously voted to hire **Alice Cerniglia** *(sir-kneel-ya)* for our half-time position of **Museum Director**. Alice has an MS in Historic Preservation from EMU and a BA in Art Education from New Mexico Highlands University. She has worked in such diverse institutions as the Walter P. Chrysler Museum, Washtenaw Council for the Arts, The University of Michigan Medical Center Gifts of Art Program, The Ella Sharpe Museum and the Henry Ford Estate. She will be mounting our exhibits, doing outreach to the schools, and hopefully getting more people to want to learn more about the history of Washtenaw County.

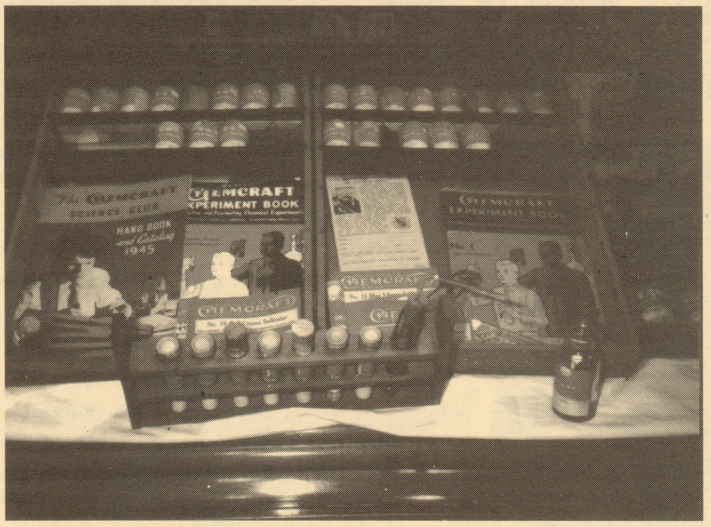
Alice started January 1 and has been busy ever since! After straightening up the office spaces upstairs, she's been busy mounting the posters for our next exhibit on **Lewis and Clark** which will begin **Wednesday, February 11** and remain up until May. Although Lewis and Clark did not pass through Michigan, Alice has discovered many connections with the Northwest Territories that will make this exhibit interesting to any Michigander. So, come on down!

Treasurer **Patty Creal** announced that we made $6,000 with our gripper fundraiser. Thanks to all who contributed so generously. We've done good things with this money and one item is now on display in our front room. A tall case clock, ca. 1850 and donated many years ago by the **Chapin** family, has been restored thanks to the dedication of **John Moore** of Saline. It's a beauty and I encourage all to come and look. Collections Chair **Judy Chrisman** announced the receipt of a wooden trunk, a photograph album, and other memorabilia belonging to the **Schmid family** of Ann Arbor. They were donated by **Susan Wineberg** (moi) who purchased

(continued on page 2)

Dollhouses were everywhere in December during our holiday exhibit. This is a Petite Princess house loaned to us by Denise Hackney. Photo: S. Wineberg

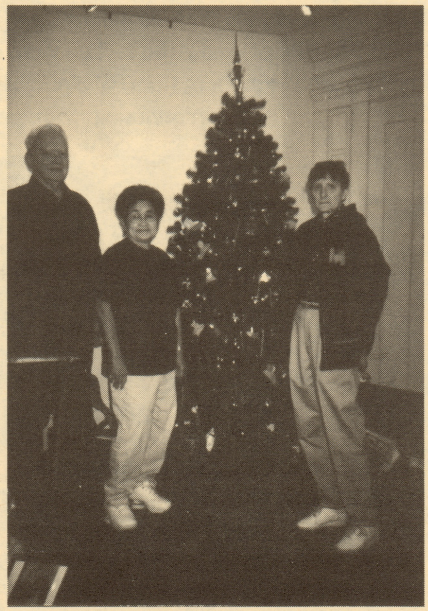
Your Museum (continued)



This old chemistry set was a big hit during our holiday exhibit as well. Photo: S. Wineberg

them at the estate sale of **Emma Schmid**, the last surviving Schmid descendant of Pastor Schmid who founded the earliest Lutheran churches in Washtenaw County in the 1830s. Patty Creal's mother remembers **Emma Schmid** as a woman of 'perfection.' The trunk is spectacular, with the address to Anna Koch in Ann Arbor written in a beautiful 19th century script.

Other items received in November included two dolls, a wicker child's rocker and buggy from **Mary Lee** and **Donald Meyer**; a roll of photos from Slauson school, an AA High School Program from 1943, a Mack & Co. box, and toy electric stove from **Evelyn Disenroth**; a doorstop, two vases, two candlesticks, and a biscuit jar from the **Anna Botsford Bach Home**; a doll buggy from **Catherine Meade**; a Kenmore Candies advertising sign and box from **Jeffrey Hauptman**; and handmade doilies, old patterns of redwork, an ostrich fan and rug hooker from **Mary** and **Bill Browning**. Thanks to all for thinking of us!



Ralph Beebe, Cynthia Yao and Judy Chrisman gather around our tree in November. Photo: S. Wineberg

Tom Freeman reports that the Bach Bequest Fund continues to improve as the stock market improves and **Pat Austin** is shaping us up with new attention to our Bylaws and Standing Rules. President **Pauline Walters** reported that the museum hosted ten women from the **International Friends** for their December meeting and that she continues to work on the Ted Aprill family genealogy. We are also looking into getting an intercom/entry system and a fire alarm system upgrade, which would add smoke detectors to our current, set up. She also reported that membership letters have gone out requesting **dues for 2004**. This is the first time we have collected our dues in January and we're hoping you aren't too confused and will continue your membership now.

Kudos

Congratulations to former board member **Louisa Pieper** on being a finalist in the ***Ann Arbor News*** Citizen of the Year Competition. Of course, we're sorry she wasn't at the top, but it's nice to have her work on behalf of Ann Arbor history and historic preservation recognized by the public. A very nice profile of her also appeared in the Saturday, November 22 ***Ann Arbor News*** Community Profile. You go girl!

Carol Mull, who spoke to us in the past about her research on the Underground Railroad, has published an article entitled "*Michigan Freedom Trail*" in the Fall 2003 issue of the ***Journal of the Afro American Historical and Genealogical Society***. Carol also serves in Lansing on the Freedom Trail Commission, dedicated to making Michigan part of the National Network to Freedom. Congratulations Carol!

The remodeling of the bungalow at **801 Pauline** is still getting accolades. A detailed photographic article appeared in the October/November 2003 issue of ***Old House Interiors.*** The 1928 house, owned by **Jerry Duprey** and **Mark Uhen,** was restored to a Craftsman appearance inside and out with the aid of architect **Michael Klement** and builder **Bruce Curtis** of **Washtenaw Woodwrights.** It's won several awards and will appear in ***American Bungalow*** magazine as well. The house was featured on the 2001 Old West Side Homes Tour, and now it's getting national recognition—as it should!

Another house getting national recognition is in Detroit, in **Indian Village** to be exact. Current owner **Mark Reynolds** was a winner in the **Great American Home Awards** contest sponsored by the **National Trust for Historic Preservation** and ***Old House Journal***. Reynolds took the ca. 1900 house he bought in 1997 when it was uninhabitable due to water damage, and restored it to its former glory. In addition to a new roof and reshingling, Reynolds removed all 50 windows and repaired and replaced them. Articles about the award appeared in both ***Preservation Magazine*** for November/December 2003 and ***Old House Journal.*** It shows you that anything can be restored if you have the will to do it (and money doesn't hurt either!)

SABRA BRIERE

Tread Lightly On The Past: The Lower Town Historic District Proposal

*In the Hanson Room of **Glacier Hills Retirement Home**, celebrating 30 years in business, over 65 people came to hear Sabra Briere speak as Chair of the Lower Town Historic District Study Committee. The **Hanson Room** was showing off its new carpeting, ceiling fixtures and general refurbishment thanks to **Phyllis Wright** who coordinated our being able to meet there. **Ann De Freytas** again brought lovely refreshments.*

*Program Chair **Ralph Beebe** introduced Ms. Briere, who has a degree in history from UM and has lived in Ann Arbor since 1973 and on Broadway in Lower Town since 1986. Despite a technical problem which rendered the power point slide show inoperable, we were able to learn a great deal about Lower Town and the study committee's recommendations on how to preserve its unique character through the historic district mechanism. Ms. Briere has chaired the committee since it first met in July of 2002.*

"I apologize for our technical difficulties, but we can use this as an opportunity to discuss the background of Lower Town. It has been an area discussed with the object of becoming a historic district for almost 30 years. Today, with the rebuilding of the Broadway Bridges, and the discussion of the redevelopment of Broadway Village on the site of the former Kroger store, Lower Town is more visible and thus more at risk. It was felt that now was the time that something had to be done to preserve its unique character before it was too late. So Councilman **Bob Johnson** with the approval of the Mayor and City Council set up our historic district study committee in 2002. The committee has met monthly since then and has held five neighborhood meetings to get the word out to the residents on what districting entails. Our report is being reviewed by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) at this point. We will take their comments and those from our public hearing, edit our report, and submit a final report to the city in December. That is our mandate.

Sabra Briere speaking in November on the proposed Lower Town Historic District. Photo: Heather Edwards.

I will begin with a little background history of the area. In 1824, John Allen and Elisha Rumsey founded Ann Arbor. Shortly thereafter in 1826, **Daniel Brown** arrived after working on the Erie Canal. He later sent for his brother, Anson, who came in 1828. In 1830, **Anson Brown** purchased land north of the river from Andrew Nowland and built a gristmill where the Detroit Edison substation stands today just north of the bridge. In 1832, Anson Brown together with his brother-in-law **Edward L. Fuller**, platted the area of Lower Town which they called ***"Ann Arbour Upon the Huron."*** Brown was an energetic man and managed to become the Postmaster which meant everyone had to come to his office to get their mail. They named the streets such as Wall, Maiden Lane, and Canal, after streets in New York City. Two major brick buildings were constructed on Broadway (originally Brown's Way according to John Dann quoted in the ***Ann Arbor News*** December 4, 1996) before Brown succumbed to cholera in the epidemic of 1834. Fuller, who was also a "Know-Nothing" politician who served as a Whig member of the Michigan State Senate and later established the Native American Association of Ann Arbor to oppose Irish-American immigration, fared better as Fuller Road today still bears his name. One brick building remains today. Known as the Anson Brown Building, it is the oldest commercial building standing in Ann Arbor.

1317 Pontiac, one of the oldest houses (1836) in Ann Arbor proposed for inclusion in the Lower town Historic District. Photo: S. Wineberg.

Brown and Fuller had ambitious plans for the area and Brown's death did put a damper on their efforts to rival John Allen's "Upper Village." But the real death knell for the area was the rejection of their efforts to have the University of Michigan locate on their side of the river in 1837. After the University opened in the Upper Village in 1840, it prospered while Lower Town languished. The good news is that because of this, many extremely early buildings are still standing today along the main streets of Lower Town, including **Pontiac Trail**, **Traver** and **Broadway**. Lower Town in fact remained a separate politi-

cal entity until 1861 when it was annexed to the city of Ann Arbor and became the Fifth Ward.

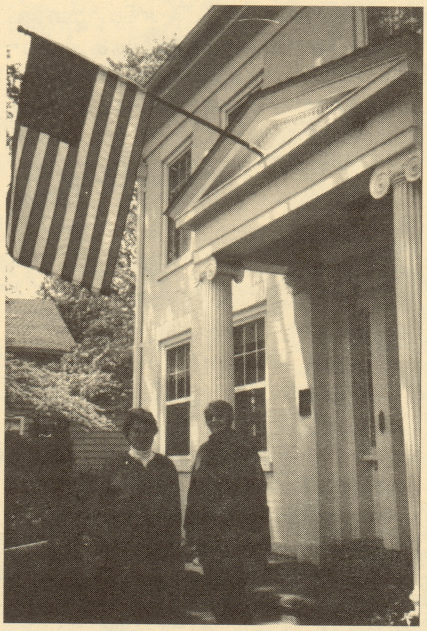
Lower Town slowly became a backwater and the local newspaper referred to the area as a place "that was stagnating with many empty lots." Despite this, many continued to live in the area and establish businesses primarily along Broadway. One of the most colorful of these was Dr. Kellogg, a clairvoyant physician whose house still stands today on Moore Street. However, if we look at the neighborhood what we see is a slow evolution of houses from the 1830s to the 1890s, large and small, but mostly 19th century houses along the closer in parts of the main roads, and early 20th century houses along the edges of our proposed district. These areas include houses built from mostly the 1930s-1950s. Rarely was anything destroyed because enough available land existed to meet the demand. Houses were added on to, some became completely smothered by new houses, but at no time was it all developed at once. The results are eclectic houses and many of the owners are eclectic as well. It was one of the few areas historically that did not discriminate against blacks and thus has always been an integrated neighborhood, unlike most others in Ann Arbor.

The Lund-Ward House at 1324 Pontiac (1843) also in the proposed Lower Town Historic District. 1972 photo by Susan Wineberg.

Part of this no doubt derives from the fact that many Abolitionists lived in the area, the most prominent of whom was the **Rev. Guy Beckley** who published ***The Signal of Liberty***, an Abolitionist newspaper for the state of Michigan in the 1840s. The area also had one of the highest percentages of volunteers in the Civil War and a high percentage of deaths as well (a wonderful monument in our local Fair View Cemetery attests to this).

Most of Ann Arbor is aware of the downtown, of Kerrytown, of the Old West Side and the University area, but many are not aware of the Lower Town area as such. I think it's important to point out we are across the (Huron) River, which is a defining feature and border for us. Our earliest industries, mainly mills, were located along its banks. The streets that meet today at the north end of the **Broadway Bridge** were various Indian Trails that converged at this spot. Today a boulder with a bronze plaque marks the spot of the **Pottawattami Trail** and explains its significance. As a result of these trails, our streets are not gridded like the rest of town and our district is fan-shaped rather than a nice square with four sides. The trails followed the valleys between the **glacial moraines** that are the defining geographic characteristic of our landscape.

If you took a walk with me this morning along Broadway, you'd see many house styles ranging from Greek Revival to Gothic to Colonial Revival, Dutch Revival and Tudor Revival on large lots with deep setbacks. Along Traver, you also see large lots, large setbacks and a quiet setting. The same would be seen on Pontiac Trail. If you walked along Wall St. and Maiden Lane, you'd notice they are devoid almost entirely of houses and full of parking lots with a few tall buildings (Turner Clinic is the most well known). Ten years ago this was not the case, but demolition of many houses and even a former neighborhood school by the University of Michigan for parking lots has created this result. Consequently and sadly, these two streets are not included in the boundaries of the historic district. As some of you may know, several of the historic buildings formerly on Wall Street have been moved and saved. The **Burnham House** is now the Reader Center for the UM **Arboretum**, the **Kellogg-Warden** house is now the home of the **Washtenaw County Historical Society** on Main at Beakes, and the **Sumner Hicks** house was recently moved to a site between Pontiac and Traver near the historic Lund house at 1324 Pontiac.



Louisa Pieper and Grace Shackman at the Guy Beckley House (1842) 1425 Pontiac Trail. Photo: S. Wineberg.

Growth and change happen in neighborhoods and they are not things we dislike. But the members of the Lower Town Historic District Study Committee were concerned that the rest of the area not become a sea of parking lots and tall buildings. It's all right to have new infill construction and it's all right to have new additions, but we see unattractive condos and apartment buildings going up and believe that this would destroy too much of the original historic fabric of the rest of the neighborhood.

For example, we have some of the buildings associated with the **pioneer settlers** of Ann Arbor. The **Absalom Traver house** at **1300 Broadway** is the last remaining house standing today in Ann Arbor that is associated with a pioneer. Traver platted much of Broadway and Wall and Maiden Lane and Traver Road is named after him. He also ran a flour mill nearby, where Traver Creek cuts across Pontiac and flows towards the Huron.

The **Anson Brown Building, at 1001-1005 Broadway,** was built in 1832 and still serves today as a focal point of the

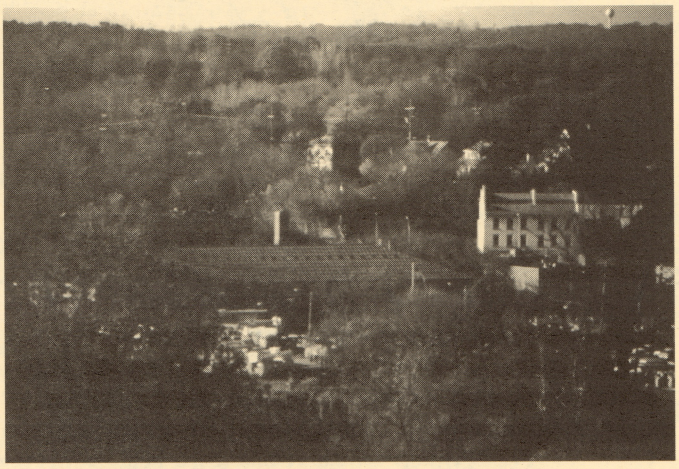
neighborhood housing the St. Vincent DePaul Shop for many years. It is the oldest commercial building standing and may be the oldest building of any type still standing. We have several historic photos of this building, including one from the 19th century, one from the 1940s and one fairly recent one.

This neighborhood also has an incredible wealth of Greek Revival houses. There are **over 50 Greek Revival style houses in the district**. This might not mean much to most people, but it is extremely unusual to have so many in a relatively small area. I'm using **1407 Broadway** as an example, as well as **1219 Traver** and **1203 Pontiac**. These houses all date from the 1840s and 1850s and some even date to the 1830s. Two of the houses moved from Wall Street mentioned earlier were built in the 1830s.

One of the biggest houses is at **1324 Pontiac** (the Lund House) and was built in the 1840s by one of the mill owners. It is one of the few properties that retains its original large lot and setback and gives us a true sense of a nineteenth century setting. It has been lovingly restored by its current owners.

We also have a large quantity of **Queen Anne** houses dating from the late 19th and early 20th century and there is a good supply of **Italianate** style houses. But mostly what we have is the evolution of an area over time, not a slice of one period. This is what makes it perfect for historic district purposes because it is a witness to various changes in taste and building techniques over time. No one on a historic district study committee would say you need to keep it frozen in time. But a lot of people fear that this will be the case, and that the area has to be preserved as a museum of the way life used to be. This is not true at all! What we want to preserve is a streetscape, a sense of space around houses, of people living happily in their houses and communicating with each other. This is something lacking, it seems, in modern subdivisions that are car dominated.

The Anson Brown Building (1834) (right) at 1001 Broadway, in the proposed Lower Town District. It is the oldest commercial building in Ann Arbor. Photo: S. Wineberg



Overview of the proposed Lower Town historic District showing the Anson Brown Building on Broadway, Anson Brown's house, now at 1029 Pontiac (1832) and the MichCon building at 982 Broadway. Photo: S. Wineberg

The Absalom Traver House (ca. 1832), 1300 Broadway, is the last surviving house associated with an Ann Arbor pioneer settler. Photo: S. Wineberg

The **car domination** of neighborhoods built after World War II is a notable feature of those neighborhoods, but it is not a feature of this one. In this area, the house dominates, not the garage! Here the garages are separate from the house and usually in the back of the lot. We have sidewalks full of pedestrians and Ann Arborites see our neighborhood as a nice place to take a Sunday walk. Why? Because it feels good. It feels like you have space, you are not intruding, you can look at the houses without being somehow a voyeur but it also feels like you have stepped back into a quiet, village-like setting. And this is something worth preserving in Ann Arbor.

Ann Arbor is going to grow and change whether each change is beautifully planned or not. The historic district proposed for this neighborhood is going to deal with those changes in a manner that, hopefully, preserves the old and allows the new. The ordinance would encourage people to make changes gently, and to tread lightly on the old houses, and to preserve the integrity of the neighborhood feeling.

I apologize again that my presentation has been thwarted by technology and that you all cannot see the various beauties and wonders of our neighborhood. I'd love to come back and show it to you in a more appropriate format." [A long question and answer period followed where the benefits and responsibilities of being in the district were discussed, as well as land values, property taxes and tax credits for renovations. The role of the Historic District Commission was also elaborated upon as well as why the new development of Broadway Village is not in the proposed district].

Program Schedule 2004

Vice President and Program Chair **Ralph Beebe** has done a fantastic job of planning interesting programs and venues for the upcoming year. All programs are held the third Sunday of the month at 2 PM. The talks are free and open to the public. Members receive a post card before the meeting with instructions on how to reach the lecture. Light refreshments are served after the lecture.

SUNDAY • FEBRUARY 15 • 2 PM
RIVERSIDE ARTS CENTER
YPSILANTI • 76 N. HURON ST.

Barry LaRue, Ypsilanti City Council member and historic preservation activist, will lecture on ***Ypsilanti's Historic Buildings***. He served for nine years on **Ypsilanti's Historic District Commission** and is past board member of the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation. He is also active on the board of the **Riverside Arts Center**, the 1909 former Masonic Temple. He and his wife live in a 150-year old house which they are lovingly restoring.

SUNDAY • MARCH 21 • 2 PM
SALINE DISTRICT LIBRARY
555 MAPLE RD. • SALINE

Sue Kosky, WCHS Board Member, manager of our museum shop and one of our dedicated gardeners, will talk about her book ***Historic Saline: Settlement to 1950***. This book is another in the Arcadia Series on "Images of America" which Grace Shackman's books were part of as well.

SUNDAY • APRIL 18 • 2 PM
COURTHOUSE SQUARE BUILDING
100 S. FOURTH AVE. • ANN ARBOR

Ray Detter, Louisa Pieper and **Grace Shackman** will talk about **The Downtown Street Exhibit Program** that is getting rave reviews all over the U.S. and winning awards as well. You've probably noticed the glass markers in the sidewalks around town with old photographs of buildings no longer standing. A new group of 'frames' as they are called, which are scattered around the campus and deal with University history, was dedicated in July.

WEDNESDAY • MAY 19 • 6 PM
ANNUAL MEETING & POTLUCK

Our Annual Meeting and Potluck Supper will be held this date. Location to be announced in the future.

SUSAN WINEBERG

News You Can Use

Save the Dates! **April 22-23, 2004** is the date for the 24th Annual **Michigan Historic Preservation Network's (MHPN)** Conference. It will be held in **Rochester** with the theme of "***Historic Communities Working Together.***" For more information you can call **517-371-8080** or visit their website at **www.mhpn.org.** And if you like to plan ahead, mark down **September 28-October 3** as the dates for the **National Trust for Historic Preservation's** Annual Conference, held this year in **Louisville, KY**. You can find out more at **www.nthpconference.org.** The theme is "***Restore America: Communities at a Crossroads.***" Also on the horizon is the Annual Conference of the **Association for Preservation Technology**, to be held **November 4-7** in **Galveston, TX.** Check out **www.apti.org** for more details.

The MHPN held its annual fundraiser in November at the **Skillman Library** (formerly Downtown Library) in **Detroit,** which is now the repository of the **National Automotive Historic Collection.** The building is a 1932 gem, designed by Smith Hinchman and Grylls and recently restored by its descendant the SmithGroup. It is now a full service library. It also houses the impressive collection of the NAHC including automotive journals, models and drawings associated with the auto industry. This will be a real resource for anyone researching Michigan's automotive history.

The MHPN also has a task force known as the **Construction Trades Council (CTC)** which publishes an annual **Directory** of all members of the skilled trades active in preservation. It should be available through their website but you can also contact **Daniel Schneider,** Chair of CTC at **517-371-8080.**

Wystan Stevens reported finding a new book on the **Huron River** by **Dirk Fischback** and published in 2001. It is about fly-fishing on the Huron in the twelve-mile stretch between the Bell Road Bridge and the Osborne Mill Site. He says anyone interested in fishing will enjoy reading this very well written book.

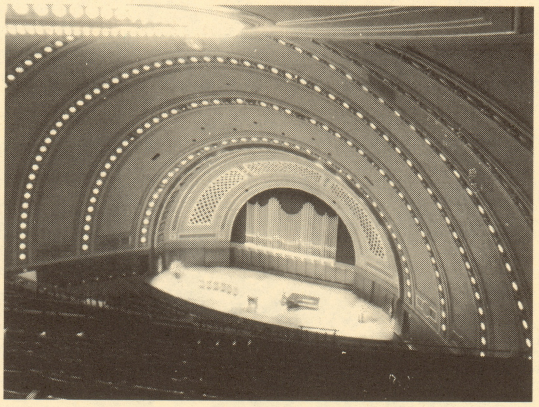
Need an excuse to go to **Williamsburg, Virginia**? Our own **Scott Kunst** of **Old House Gardens** will be speaking at a symposium on heirlooms there April 4-6. For a brochure you can email **dchapman@cwf.org** or call **1-800-603-0948**. Old House Gardens is also featured in the Winter 2003 issue of ***Better Homes and Gardens*** magazine. The writer refers to Scott as "impassioned" and we agree. He recently donated bulbs to our Museum Garden and we are always impressed with the results.

The **American Institute of Architects** (AIA) has just begun publishing a quarterly newsletter known as ***Preservation Architect.*** With its Historic Resources Committee, the AIA will make access to historic preservation news, trends and information more direct and useful. To top it off, **Eugene Hopkins** of the SmithGroup was recently elected the head of the AIA, the first time a preservation architect has held this position. You can see what they have to offer on their website **www.aia.org/hrc.**

Those of you familiar with the Art Deco district of **South Beach** in Miami Beach may be surprised to learn that another type of Miami architecture is now being nominated for protection. Called **MiMo** for "**Miami Modern,**" this architecture is in an area north of the South Beach District and would be called the North Beach Historic District. The architecture is primarily from the 1950s and 1960s, and the concept of MiMo was formed because "postwar" sounded too depressing! I remember staying with my parents in some of these hotels in 1959, and they were wild even then. Let's hope they can be protected from destruction. We'll keep you posted.

SUSAN WINEBERG

Around The Campus



Hill Auditorium re-opened in January after a $40 million restoration. It must be seen. JPEG by Julie Truettner.

The big event in town in January was the re-opening of a restored **Hill Auditorium.** The 'new' Hill now glitters with gold trim and glows with lights that have been painted over for 50 years. In the newly painted arches, we now have historically accurate paint colors in blue-grey, green-grey and deep red-brown instead of the drab white of the past. The ***New York Times*** covered the re-opening and declared that Hill could be called the Carnegie Hall of the Midwest! Designed by Albert Kahn and dedicated in 1913, Hill has served as the venue for some of the most notable performers of the 20th century. After a careful $40 million restoration under the supervision of local architecture firm Quinn/Evans, as well as Kahn Associates, it now has air conditioning, elevators, many more restrooms, a lounge in the basement, new seats, handicap accessibility and new electrical and heating systems. Its perfect acoustics have been retained as well. The first concert was held January 17th which also marked the 125th anniversary of the **University Musical Society**. The University of Michigan will certainly win many accolades for this wonderful endeavor.

Also on campus celebrating milestones are the **Michigan League** (age 75) and the **Michigan Union** (age 100). The League has an ambitious calendar of events that began in January and continue throughout the year. On **Wednesday, February 18**, Dr. **Thomas Brunk** will lecture at 4:30 on ***"Pewabic Tiles"***, and on **Thursday, March 25** at 4:30 **Barbara Krueger** will lecture on ***"Women in Stained Glass"***. Local historian **Mary Culver** will speak **Wednesday, April 22** at 4:30 on ***"Pond and Pond Architects"*** who designed the building and on **May 22** there will be an anniversary Gala with dinner and dancing. A lecture in October is planned to be on President Kennedy's Peace Corps Speech and one in November will be on the ***"Mendelssohn Theater."*** Helping with all these events is a recent gift of $50,000 from the **Elizabeth Earhart Kennedy Fund**. For more information call **734-647-7463.**

The **Michigan Union** kicked off it's 100th year [it was formed in 1903 but the building didn't open until 1919] with a new permanent display of Michigan Union Opera memorabilia, housed in a new Opera Lounge dedicated to the group which did the most to raise the money for the current building. The Mimes, as this all-male organization that produced the "Operas" was called, produced its first opera in 1908 and raised $2,000 that year. Famous people who performed in these operas include football star Tom Harmon and New York governor Thomas E. Dewey, famous as the opponent of Harry Truman for President. In 1956, the all-male tradition ended and the group's named was changed to MUSKET (Michigan Union Show, Ko-Eds Too) and it continues to perform today. For more information, check the website at **www.umich.edu/~union/100/.**

Another jewel being refurbished is the beautiful **Clements Library.** Designed by Albert Kahn for Regent William L. Clements and built in 1922 to resemble Kahn's favorite Italian palazzo, the Clements is getting new carpets and draperies while the parquet floor and ceilings are being restored—the first time any work has been done since the building opened. This too benefited from a generous gift from the **Elizabeth Kennedy Fund**. In order to show off their new sparkling gem, the Clements Associates will hold a first-ever general annual meeting on **Saturday, May 8,** 2004. You can reach them at **734-764-2347** or visit their website at **www.clements.umich.edu.**

The **Bentley Library** is busy with its new addition under construction. They hope to have it completed by the fall of 2004, in time for the Annual Meeting of the Friends, and thus to have that meeting serve as a celebration as well. They also reported that **Russell Bidlack** donated the **Geddes Letters** (as well as his papers) to them. No better place could have been found for these things—some of which will be on display at the fall meeting. We're looking forward to that.

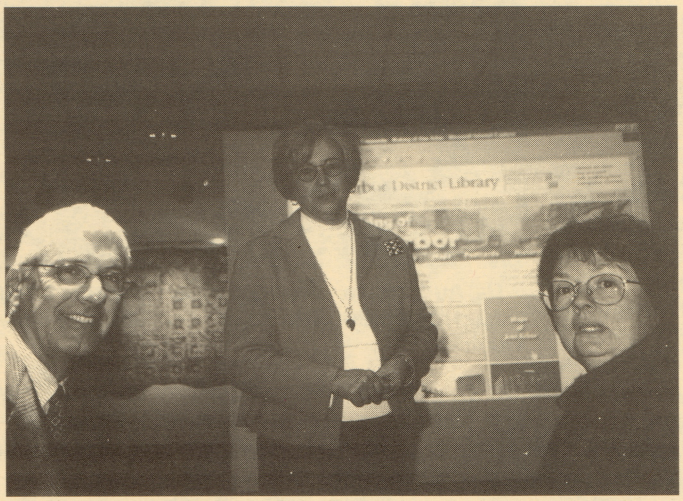
Julia Truettner, a historic preservation graduate of the EMU program who now works in the UM Plant Extension, has just published a book on **Alexander Jackson Davis** and his plans for the original UM Campus (which were never built because they were too expensive). Davis' Gothic Revival designs were done in 1838 and nine of his drawings repose at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. The book, entitled **Aspirations for Excellence**, was published by the UM Press and is available at local bookstores.

The **UM Detroit Observatory,** built in 1854 and still containing its original instruments, continues its lecture series with three more lectures this year. On **Tuesday, February 10, Clayton Lewis** of the Clements Library will speak on ***"Summer Paradise: The role of Railway & Steamboat Lines in Promoting Vacation Travel.'*** On **Tuesday, March 9, Keith Snedegar** of Utah Valley State College will speak on ***"Nineteenth Century American Astronomers in South Africa,"*** and on **Tuesday, April 6, Lauren Sickels-Taves** of EMU will speak on ***"Preserving Lighthouses, Endangered Beacons of Maritime Tradition."*** All lectures are at 3PM at the Observatory located at 1398 E. Ann St. **Open House Tours** are scheduled for **January 14 & 21, February 4 & 18, March 10 & 24,** and **April 7 & 21**. You can learn more by visiting **www.DetroitObservatory.umich.edu.** The Observatory is also celebrating its **Sesquicentennial** and encourages gifts of $150 or more, which entitles you to a free copy of the book, **A Creation of His Own: Tappan's Detroit Observatory,** a $25 value.

On **Friday, March 19,** The University of Michigan Museum Studies Program and the Arts of Citizenship Program will sponsor a Symposium on **Historic Sites of Conscience** called **"Activating the Past."** It will be held in the Rackham Amphitheater from 9-4 and will have presenters from South Africa, New York City, Russia and Los Angeles. They are part of a movement to change the role of historic sites in civic life to be centers for active citizen participation. The main focus is how museums can function in the development of democracies. For more information, email **bltaylor@umich.edu.**

SUSAN WINEBERG

Around The Town



Fran Blouin of the Bentley Library, Josie Parker of the AA District Library and Louisa Pieper of the Street Exhibit Program are on hand for the unveiling of the new "Making of Ann Arbor" website. Photo: S. Wineberg

On November 15, 2003, **the Ann Arbor District Library** served as the venue to unveil its latest collaboration with the University of Michigan Library and the Bentley Library in "***The Making of Ann Arbor,***" a website devoted to letting you explore many collections on local history. The site includes 855 images including items from the Bentley's post card collection, the **1874 Atlas of Washtenaw County**, **Historic Buildings: Ann Arbor Michigan** (1998) by Marjorie Reade and Susan Wineberg, and the **Pictorial History of Ann Arbor** (1974). You can access the site through that of the District Library or just use Google and type in "Making of Ann Arbor."

On **Sunday, February 22** at 1:30 PM in the auditorium of the Education Center at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, the **Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County** will feature **Elizabeth Yakel**, UM School of Information, who will speak on "***Searching for Archival Material on the Web.***" The class after the lecture will be a panel discussion on "***Researching Your Ohio Ancestors***." The meetings at held at 5305 Elliot Drive at the McAuley Health Center. Use Parking lot "P" and look for signs. All talks are free and open to the public. For more information contact President **Marcia McCrary** at **734-483-2799** or visit their website at **www.hvcn.org/info/gswc.**

On **Wednesday, February 18** at 7 PM, the **Cobblestone Farm Association** will hold is Annual Meeting and celebrate its 30th birthday in the barn meeting space. People are encouraged to come and share refreshments and memories of saving and restoring this local landmark, built in sections in the 1820s and the 1840s. You can also help chart its future. For more information call **George Taylor** at **734-434-4753**. The Association also publishes a newsletter which is a benefit of membership. Due to budget constraints, various projects such as the orchard improvements and rebuilding of the chicken coop have been put on hold. They are also working on a new relationship with the City of Ann Arbor so that they can get back the programming that keeps the museum open to the public. The farm is located at **2781 Packard Road**, near Buhr Park.

The Cobblestone Farm is operated by the City of Ann Arbor Parks and Recreation Department. Events being held this year include a **Spring Bridal Extravaganza** on **Sunday March 14,** from noon-4 PM. A fee of $5.00 is charged and you are invited to view the facility and interact with special event service providers and get ideas from wedding experts. Pre-registration is required so call **734-971-8789** if you are interested. Also being held at the farm on **Monday, March 15** is the "**No School Days at the Farm**" which provides a day at the farm including crafts, cooking, games, stories and visits to the barnyard. This is for kids age 5-11. Pre-registration is also required for this event which costs $50.00. See the city's website for more details at **www.ci.ann-arbor.us.**

Bob Lyons, the local businessman who hosted one of our earliest fund raisers and helped us with our Briarwood exhibit at Christmas time some years back, was profiled in the ***Ann Arbor News*** as a runner-up in the Citizen of the Year contest. It was noted in the ***Ann Arbor News*** of January 1 that he has donated the ***"Lyons Country Store Exhibition"***, a re-creation of a 1920s general store, to the **Hands-On Museum** in Ann Arbor. Jim Frenza, president of the museum, noted that Lyons has personally helped organize and fund the exhibit (it is not available for viewing yet).

Several **proposed historic districts** have been brought before the Ann Arbor City Council but they are all on hold for one reason or another. The Council failed to act on the proposed expansion of the **Washtenaw-Hill Historic District** and it appears that since six months have elapsed, the whole process may need to start over again. Needless to say, this is disheartening to the members of the study committee who thought they might get their lives back to normal this year. The **Lower Town Historic District** Study Committee completed its work in December of 2003 and presented its preliminary report to the city after holding its public hearing that month. This will be presented to City Council for approval sometime early this year. Also before the Council are a **thematic district for apartment buildings** constructed in the 1920s and **several individual churches** which were formerly protected under the now-defunct IHP Historic District. A six-month moratorium on demolition has been granted to the churches but not to the apartment houses. One proposed building, the former **St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church** designed by **R.S Gerganoff**. (the architect of the Washtenaw County Building on Main) and begun in 1935 [dedicated in 1939], is the subject of controversy as its owner, the McKinley Corporation, seeks

to demolish it now. They are currently suing the City for a denial of this permission. The church was designed in a Byzantine style and a number of its beams and joists, and much of its brick, came from the Presbyterian Church on E. Huron St. (now site of the Ann Arbor News) which was being demolished at the time! That means the bricks and beams date from the 1840s! The church received a Preservation Award in 1995 from the Ann Arbor Historic District Commission. We will have to keep you posted on this one.

Louisa Pieper is still active on many fronts, and one is with the **Michigan Theater** Board. The corridor that connects the historic theater with the Screening Room will have a series of panels on the Founders of Ann Arbor. Funded by the Ford Foundation, they have hired **Susan Cybulski** as the graphic artist and are working with **Art McViccar** on information. Look for it soon!

On the west side of town, the imminent closure of the Eaton Plant at First and William has prompted new owners from Chicago to hire architect **Lorri Sipes** to convert the former factory into residences. They have already had informal talks with the Historic District Commission but the factory is still occupied at present. The ***Old West Side News*** of January notes that this and many other projects are making their neighborhood a 'happening place.' From the Ashley Mews condos, to the proposed new parking structure at First and Washington, to the new Y and the opening of the restored Schwaben Halle, to the opening of the new homeless shelter and the closing of the others, and to the proposed removal of the city yard on Washington, things are jumping around the edges of the district.

And within the district, the **Anna Botsford Bach Home** closed its doors and the Home's Board of Directors voted to transfer the proceeds of the sale of the facility and their other assets to the **Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation**. The home, at 1422 W. Liberty, was a historic 17-room residence on 4 acres originally built by Dr. Robert E. McKenzie. It remained a senior facility until 2002 and now serves in a similar capacity as the **Rudolph Steiner Health Center**, a holistic approach to medical care.

SUSAN WINEBERG

Around The County

The folks in **Saline** have been very busy. They just held their 17th Antique Show and now are planning their three winter education meetings. The theme is "Research Materials Available Locally: Primary and Secondary Sources." On **Wednesday, February 18, Brian Dunnigan** of the Clements Library will be speaking on ***"Map Research."*** On **Wednesday, March 17, Peggy Haines,** Washtenaw County Clerk will be speaking on ***"Property Records."*** On **Wednesday, April 21, Wallie Patrick**, Director of the Family History Library at the Ann Arbor Mormon Stake will speak on ***"Genealogy Research."*** All meetings are at 7:30 at the Saline Railroad Depot Museum, 402 N. Ann Arbor corner Bennett and all are free.

Saline's **Rentschler Farm Museum** reopens with ***"Springtime on the Farm"*** to be held **Saturday, May 15** from 11-4. The Rentschler Farm is at 1265 E. Michigan Avenue. After that, the Farm Museum, interpreting farm life of the early 20th century, is open Saturdays from 11-3 until October 2. The **Saline Railroad Depot Museum** is open Saturdays from 11-3 year round except holidays. There is a furnished caboose, livery barn and station with Agent's Room and Freight Room. Both museums are free. For more information call **734-944-0442.**

In December, the **Saline City Council** passed on first reading a proposal to establish nearly 100 homes along North Ann Arbor Street as part of a **new historic district**. Many of us who drive to Saline are familiar with the lovely homes along this road, representing many 19th century styles including Greek Revival, Italianate and Queen Anne houses. The ordinance will go to a **public hearing on March 1** before a second reading adoption. We wish them well.

Saline's past was also celebrated in December with the publication of a book entitled **Saline** in the Arcadia Images of America series by our own board member **Susan Kosky.** Kosky had a book signing at the Calico Cat and the book is available at Borders and other bookstores as well as at the Museum on Main Street. Kosky used photographs from the vast collection of the Saline Area Historical Society and it now marks the fifth book in this series to be about Washtenaw County. There is also a chapter on the two experiments in Agriculture which took place in the area—the Saline Valley Farms and the Ford Village Industries. Hear her speak in March!

The Old Zion Parsonage at 2905 S. Fletcher Road in **Freedom Township** and the **McMahon Springs** farmhouse at 2426 Whitmore Lake Road in **Ann Arbor Township** have both had reports submitted for review to be designated as **individual historic districts**. **Marnie Paulus**, Preservation Planner for Washtenaw County, has worked hard to write these two new district reports and the results are impressive. McMahon Springs is the home of **Brian** and **Linda Etter** and was built in 1867 for James McMahon, an Irish immigrant who became a miller and eventually a state representative in the 1870s. The Zion Parsonage is now the home of **Jack** and **Angelika Lewis**, after serving as the parsonage of Zion Lutheran church from 1889-1943. Built in a vernacular Gothic Revival style, it originally had two front doors, one for the family and the other for parishioners, which was typical for churches serving the Germans in Washtenaw. Seriously damaged by a cyclone in 1917, it was restored as originally built.

Preservation Chelsea held a holiday Historic Home Tour which featured the **Glazier House** at 208 South St. in the process of renovation and a **Claire Allen** designed home at 116 S. East St. Also included was the **Chelsea Post Office** with its WPA murals and the **First Congregational Church** built in 1894. It's unfortunate that home tours are all held at Christmas, when we are our busiest and there are so many demands on our time. We hope they will do another one in the spring as well.

Preservation Eastern, the EMU student group from the program in historic preservation in Ypsilanti, also has announced a series of lectures and projects. On **Friday, February 13, Dr. Mark Livengood,** a folklorist, will make a presentation. On **Friday, March 12**, it will be **Historic Preservation Career Night** with talks by **Denise Pike** of Mt. Clements Community Development and **Lisa Jacobs** of the Museum of Surveying. On **Tuesday, March 16, Frank Gilbert** of the National Trust for Historic Preservation will be speaking to a Preservation Law class. All lectures are from 7:30-9 PM at King Hall except for the Gilbert lecture (TBA).

The **Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation** continues its speaker series with talks scheduled for Wednesday, March 24 by

The McMahon Springs proposed Historic District on Whitmore Lake Road in Ann Arbor Township. Photo: Marnie Paulus.

decorative painters **Randy** and **Kathy Fettes** on "***So Faux So Good.***" They will demonstrate their most popular faux finish techniques. The talk is at the Ladies' Literary Club, 218 N. Washington at 7:30 PM and is free and open to the public. On **Wednesday, May 26**, they will hold their **annual Marker Awards Banquets** and on **Sunday, August 15**, they will host the 27th **Annual Historic Home Tour**. Save the dates! You can learn more at their website, **www.yhf.org.**

Standing in front of **Jack Miller's car museum** on East Cross Street in **Ypsilanti** is the **US National Park Service logo**, indicating that along with Yosemite and Yellowstone, travelers can have their park system passports stamped here. That's because the museum is part of ANHA, the Motor Cities-**Automobile National Heritage Area.** The main center is in Detroit at Stroh's River Place and there are nine hubs in southeastern Michigan where you can learn about automotive history. Ypsilanti's car museum is the gateway for the Ypsilanti hub. The National Park Service kiosk describes the other eight hubs and other attractions in Ypsilanti, which include the **Fire Museum, Yankee Air Force Museum, Chick Inn, Bill's Drive Inn, Preston Tucker House** and **Bomber Restaurant.** The museum's phone number is **734-482-5200.** Check them out.

The **Washtenaw Land Trust** in its holiday greetings was upbeat for 2004. They have plans to work on several projects, including a campaign to protect 117 acres of farmland in **Bridgewater Township**, as well as one to preserve 17 acres of open space in Pittsfield Township. The January 15 issue of the ***Ann Arbor News*** reported that the 17 acres on Morgan Road in Pittsfield were purchased for $50,000. This small but very historic parcel is the remnant of the farm owned by **William Geddes**, who settled there in 1837. His great great granddaughters sold the property to the land trust. Most of the money was from a now inactive group known as **Forever Green**. It borders the 535-acre **Pittsfield Preserve**, which was purchased in 2002 for $11 million and which was awarded a state grant for its first major development. $433,780 from the Michigan DNR will be matched by the township to create athletic fields, playgrounds and hiking trails on 55 acres of the SW portion of the preserve, land once owned by Hillsdale College. This is a wise use of this money and we are now on our way to preserving the great legacy of the Geddes family in Washtenaw County.

SUSAN WINEBERG

Beyond Washtenaw

Detroit looked poised to become the new poster child for revitalized cities through preservation of its long neglected historic hotels, when the developer for the restoration of the **Book-Cadillac Hotel**, Kimberly-Clark Associates, backed out of the deal claiming costs were higher than they had anticipated. Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick said the deal will go forward and they are looking for another developer. Let's keep our fingers crossed.

Meanwhile, nearby on Madison Street, the **historic Madison-Lenox Hotel** was denied a demolition permit by the Historic District Commission. Owned by the Ilitch family, these buildings have been empty for years but could be restored to real gems. Their plans are for a parking lot. Surrounded by other historic buildings such as the DAC (Detroit Athletic Club) and the restored Detroit Opera House, it would be tragic to lose these buildings just when Detroit seems to be turning a corner. The HDC said they had no evidence the buildings could not be restored and unanimously rejected the application. But politics may come into play. To forestall that, a **"hug-in"** was held by some 200 supporters on **January 28** to show city officials that the buildings still have value. The two buildings were constructed in 1900 and 1903 and it is estimated that $3-7 million is needed to restore them. We'll keep you posted.

Not too far away from this scene, one of restoration occurred as the **Kern's Clock** has been placed back on Woodward next to Compuware. The clock had been suspended from the Kern Department Store from 1933-1966, when it was placed in storage when the building was demolished. Now folks can once again say *"Meet me under the Kern's Clock."* Further east along Jefferson Avenue, the historic **1843 Moross House**, long time home of the Detroit Garden Center is **for sale or rent**. Dennis Zembala, of the Detroit Historical Museum which owns the house, is

looking to have it locally designated which would insure it's preservation. It is the oldest surviving brick house in Detroit.

Get ready to visit the Rouge! Ford's huge **Rouge factory** will again be open to the public this spring. Begun in 1917, it peaked with an army of 100,000 workers. Visitors will see a movie about the making of autos with a soundtrack recorded by the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. After stopping at the Observation Tower, visitors will see the 'future, a look at the new Truckland factory which will be making Ford's new F-150. Look for more information in May.

And speaking of cars, the City of **Allen Park** was given the **'nail'** from the **Uniroyal Tire** on I-94 and put it up for auction on Ebay. This netted them **$3,000** which will be used to **restore a brick farmhouse** in a city historical museum. The nail measures 11 feet tall and weighs 250 pounds. Look for a more authentic tire when you drive into Detroit—it was erected in 1964 as a Ferris wheel for the World's Fair in New York City and underwent a $1 million facelift to celebrate its 40th birthday. The name Uniroyal now shines in the hubcap and the base has been renovated as well. This is part of an $8.5 million effort to improve 18 miles of I-94 in anticipation of the 2006 Superbowl.

ANHA, the **Automobile National Heritage Area** headquartered in Detroit, reports in its newsletter that they now have a **Kalamazoo** affiliate at the Gilmore Museum to celebrate being the home of **Checker Cab** for 80 years. There is also a new **Saginaw** Affiliate, which is forming a committee to work on incorporating two historic neon **drive-in theater signs** back into the heart of the community. In **Flint,** the seven **Vehicle City Arches** were unveiled on November 29th along with new decorative paving and reproduction historic lighting and landscaping. The exterior rehabilitation of auto pioneer **ABC Hardy's** house is also nearing completion. He founded the Flint Automobile Co in 1902.

The **Detroit Historical Museum** is celebrating its 75th anniversary with an exhibit on ***"American Icons-Detroit Designs."*** Opening in May 2004, it will feature designs of Detroiters that have shaped the world in automotive design.

The **Milwaukee Junction Industrial District** will be the focus of a self-guided tour brochure funded by the Detroit Historical Society with a grant from ANHA. It will highlight the district where Detroit's automotive industry grew to adolescence.

Auto Dealerships are now on the minds of the ANHA folks and they are looking for more information. They want to know where the oldest dealerships are and how they have changed over time. You can call them at **313-259-3425.** They note that Ford dealerships are discussed on their website **www.ford.com,** in the celebration of Ford's 100th anniversary but they want to know more! ANHA also reported that the **Motor US12 Project** has been kicked off. Their goal is to document auto history sites along US 12 between Detroit and the Irish Hills and partner with local historical societies along the route. Their hope is not only to document the obvious, but also the gas stations, drive-in restaurants, dealerships, motels, historic signs, drive-in theaters and the like. In other words, anything to do with driving! The list seems endless.

The **Plymouth Historical Museum** on **February 12,** 2004 will celebrate the anniversaries of Ford and Oldsmobile as historian **Martin Brosnan** speaks as part of a year long lecture series, ***The 20th Century: A time of Innovation & Progress.*** Call **734-455-8940** or visit **www.plymouthhistory.org.**

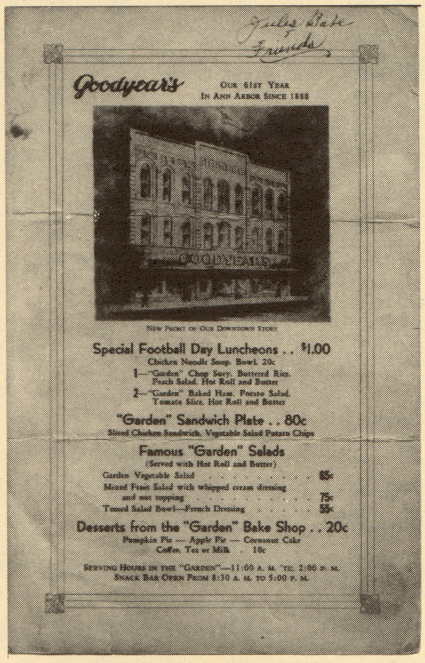
The **Smithsonian** is coming to Michigan! The **Barn Again! Exhibit** through the SITES program will focus on the agricultural heritage and rural life in Michigan throughout 2004. The first exhibit and Opening Gala are at the Novi Civic Center in **Novi** until **March 7.** The exhibit then moves to **East Lansing March 12-13,** to Montcalm Community College in **Sidney, March 15-April 24,** the Alger County Historical Museum in **Munising May 2-June 12,** The Chippewa County Fairgrounds in **Brimley June 16-19,** the Port Oneida Schoolhouse in **Glen Arbor June 28-August 9,** the Northeast Michigan Arts Center in **Standish August 15-September 25,** and the Stair Public Library in **Morenci October 3-November 14.** All these areas have many events planned in conjunction with the exhibit to highlight their rural heritage. Hopefully we can get to one of those sites this year!

On the western side of the state, we learned that the **Snowflake Motel** in **St. Joseph,** Michigan—designed by **William Wesley Peters,** the son-in-law of **Frank Lloyd Wright** in 1961—is in trouble. This quirky motel, which is very Wrightian in appearance, has fallen into disrepair and though it is on the National Register it is still endangered despite efforts by its current owner to raise consciousness about the motel. The area nearby is declining and thus finding investors is difficult. You can read more about this at **www.jetsetmodern.com.** Lots of photographs! Check out the motel on your next driving trip to Chicago. It's on the Red Arrow Highway, just off I-94.

Support For The *Impressions*

This issue is supported by donations from **Donald** and **Caroline Peterik, Evelyn Griffith, Bonnie Loesel, Judy** and **Tom Mich, Elizabeth Neidhardt,** and **Ina, Mike, Rudi, Katy** and **Alex Gerdenich.** This is to honor the 75th birthday of Mickey Mouse and Pauline Walters. Here are Rudi and Katy Gerdenich enjoying themselves! *Photo by Russell Ferguson*

Remember When?


Goodyear's

Our 61st Year
In Ann Arbor Since 1888

New Front of Our Downtown Store

Special Football Day Luncheons . . $1.00
Chicken Noodle Soup. Bowl. 20c.
1—"Garden" Chop Suey, Buttered Rice, Peach Salad, Hot Roll and Butter
2—"Garden" Baked Ham, Potato Salad, Tomato Slice, Hot Roll and Butter

"Garden" Sandwich Plate . . 80c
Sliced Chicken Sandwich, Vegetable Salad Potato Chips

Famous "Garden" Salads
(Served with Hot Roll and Butter)
Garden Vegetable Salad 85c
Mixed Fruit Salad with whipped cream dressing and nut topping 75c
Tossed Salad Bowl—French Dressing 55c

Desserts from the "Garden" Bake Shop . . 20c
Pumpkin Pie — Apple Pie — Coconut Cake
Coffee, Tea or Milk . 10c

Serving Hours in the "Garden"—11:00 A. M. 'til 2:00 P. M.
Snack Bar Open From 8:30 A. M. to 5:00 P. M.

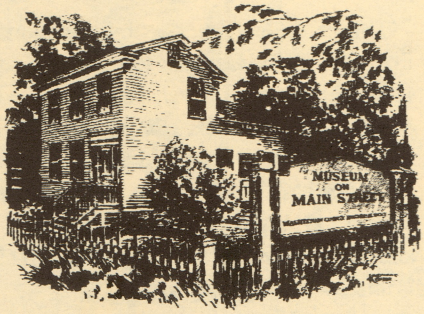
Goodyear's menu of 1949 has prices hard to imagine today.

This 1949 menu from Goodyear's sums up the culinary scene from post-World War II Ann Arbor. Goodyear's had just expanded into three storefronts and modernized their doorway in a burst of building activity that characterized the era. Any removable trace of the 19th century building was removed for the comfort of its modern patrons. A few years later our 19th century courthouse, just one block away, was totally removed and replaced. Today's prices for restaurant fare have increased 10-fold but the Goodyear's building took a step back in time and was restored to its original appearance in 1984. The building was constructed in 1867 as the First National Bank and is now part of the Main Street Historic District.

Next Program

Sunday • March 21 • 2 PM
Saline District Library

Susan Kosky will speak on her new book ***Historic Saline: From Settlement to 1950.***



WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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WANDER WASHTENAW
Sat. May 15 & Sun May 16
Explore Historic Attractions
More info in March *Impressions*

EXHIBIT: February through April 2004
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500 N Main at Beakes, Ann Arbor
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"HISTORIC SALINE: FROM SETTLEMENT TO 1950"
MARCH 21 • 2 PM

SPEAKER
SUSAN KOSKY

SALINE DISTRICT LIBRARY

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